



<http://www.ugbh.org/pages/DVS/DVSComments.html>

DVS

Viewer Comments

My husband and I are both visually impaired and we think DVS is one of the greatest things that could have happened to the visually impaired population.

Mary Walker, Chicago, IL

I have been totally blind from diabetes for 22 years. Descriptive Video Service is keeping images alive in my mind's eye. It is wonderful to be reminded of what facial expressions look like and what people are wearing.

Judith Oehler Carrigan, Dedham, MA

I wish to congratulate you on one of the most wonderful accomplishments in the creative use of modern media technology! DVS is professional, thorough, complementary to the dialogue, creative and intelligent in choice of words and vividness of descriptions, and just simply entertaining as all get-out!...the descriptions were so complete, I sat back in shock and a little sadness thinking to myself: "My gosh, all the things I've missed all these years in movies and shows due to lack of good verbal descriptions!"

Bob Burnham, Santa Barbara, CA

Thank you for your service! It is great! I can not find words to express how much it means to me as a blind person to hear, what I can not see....

Anna M. Pascoe, Philadelphia, PA

Now [with DVS] I know what other kids are talking about.

Matthew Hagan (age 11), Independence, MO

Thank you for making public television programs accessible to visually impaired people and for opening up a whole new world for me. I had never really watched PBS much, but with DVS, I have truly become a PBS fan.

Katherine Richter, Riverside, CA

My first experience with DVS was very emotional. I found myself pacing the floor in tearful disbelief. It was like somebody had opened a door into a new world, in which I was able to see with my ears what most people see with their eyes. The new world I describe is that of body language. To a person who has never seen, body language does not exist.

Jane Morin, Auburn, MA

Descriptive Video Service has made watching television a much more enjoyable experience for me. I have been totally blind since birth and throughout my life, I always felt that I was missing important plot changes as I viewed various programs.

Shannon A. Reece, Monterey, CA

An increasing number of Americans are in their seventies and eighties, and one or the other frequently has visual disability. DVS bridges and eliminates that disability by enabling both to share

the enjoyment of the program and.... to think about the same kinds of issues that are raised. It brings together the husband and wife at a time when....each day becomes more precious.

Myles Mace, Dover MA

The descriptions reminded me of the time I went to the movies with my sighted friends as a child. Only these descriptions were even better. With this splendid descriptive narration, I feel as if I am "seeing" the picture myself.

Phyllis B. Zobler, Brooklyn, NY

Whether entertaining, educational or cultural, television has become an integral part of American life. I, and other blind and visually impaired people, have always participated in television viewing, but with DVS, we are finally participating equally.

Deborah Kendrick, Cincinnati, OH

Access to information, whether it is as simple as the information on the face of a clock, as broad as the computer screen or as previously unconsidered as the actions of actors on the television screen, they all give blind and visually impaired persons access to the world around them. DVS plays an important part.

Brian Charlson, Computer Instructor

Carroll Center for the Blind, Watertown, MA

Our entire society will be working in coming months and years toward a better understanding of how to best implement the goals of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Descriptive Video is a fine example of "equal access" anticipated by this landmark legislation.

Kathleen Megivern, Executive Director

Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired

Described video is a major contribution to true equality for blind and visually impaired persons, enabling them to experience aspects of the world like never before.

Carl Augusto, President

American Foundation for the Blind

Media Access / DVS / WGBH Educational Foundation / www.wgbh.org



http://www.wgbh.org/Registration/dvs_milestones.htm

DVS Milestones

September 1985

While exploring possible applications of the Second Audio Program (S.A.P.) feature on the new technology of stereo television, WGBH Executive Director of Market Development and Technology Dr. Barry Cronin conceives idea for a descriptive video service to make television accessible to blind and visually impaired persons.

June/July 1986

With a grant from The Easter Seals Society, WGBH conducts local test of described video on MYSTERY! with blind and visually impaired people at viewing sites in the Boston area.

November 1987

Encouraged by WGBH's research indicating the blind community's enthusiasm for described television, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting provides funds to WGBH for the development of a business plan to create a national description service on PBS.

November 1987

WGBH creates Descriptive Video Service, hires Laurie Everett as Director to write Business Plan and seek funding.

January 1988

DVS is featured on ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT WITH PETER JENNINGS.

January 1988

DVS and Barry Cronin are featured on CNN's SHOWBIZ TODAY.

January 1988

WGBH conducts first national test of DVS on AMERICAN PLAYHOUSE on 10 public television stations across the country, in conjunction with the Washington Ear, a Washington D.C. radio reading service.

July 1988

DVS is demonstrated at the annual convention of the American Council of the Blind in Little Rock, Arkansas.

August 1988

DVS national test is completed. Business Plan is submitted to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

September 1988

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting accepts the Business Plan and funds further research and development.

April 1989

WGBH and The American Foundation for the Blind testify before Congress (Subcommittee on Labor, Health & Human Services) for appropriation to make television accessible to blind persons.

July 1989

DVS is presented at the annual convention of the National Federation of the Blind in Denver, Colorado and the American Council of the Blind in Richmond, Virginia.

August 1989

The re-authorization of the Education of the Handicapped Act (EHA) includes authorizing language for description of television for the benefit of blind and visually impaired people.

September 1989

Congress appropriates funds for described video as authorized under EHA.

October 1989

DVS receives start-up funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and a three year challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

November 1989

DVS department is created, original staff of seven (in production, outreach and development) is hired.

January 1990

DVS is launched as a permanent, national service on PBS with the season premiere of AMERICAN PLAYHOUSE with 32 PBS stations participating.

January 1990

DVS Bulletin (quarterly newsletter/program guide) is mailed to 1,600 blind and visually impaired people and organizations.

January 1990

DVS and Barry Cronin are featured on GOOD MORNING AMERICA.

February 1990

First meeting of DVS Consumer Advisory Council.

February 1990

DVS provides live descriptions for special Congressional screening of MY LEFT FOOT in Washington, DC.

March 1990

DVS introduces description to MYSTERY! series.

April 1990

DVS adds description to DEGRASSI HIGH series.

April 1990

DVS Director Laurie Everett and DVS Consumer Advisory Council Member Jake Sills testify

before House Subcommittee on Labor, Health & Human Services for continued funding.

June 1990

DVS receives the Perkins Project with Industry Special Recognition Award for "notably contributing to the quality of life for people who are blind and visually impaired."

July 1990

DVS hosts first "Night at the Movies" at the American Council of the Blind's convention in Denver, Colorado.

July 1990

DVS is presented the American Council of the Blind's Vernon Henley Memorial Award for "the outstanding creativity and innovation leading to the availability of Descriptive Video Service throughout the United States."

September 1990

First meeting of DVS National Advisory Board.

September 1990

Laurie Everett demonstrates DVS at the European Blind Union Art Horizons conference in Glasgow, Scotland, at the invitation of the Royal National Institute for the Blind.

October 1990

Emmy Award from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences is presented to WGBH and Public Television for "outstanding achievement in the science of television engineering."

October 1990

DVS introduces description to the WONDERWORKS FAMILY MOVIE series.

December 1990

DVS describes its first videos (HELP! and BECKET) as thank-you gifts for donors with permission from MPI Home Video.

December 1990

ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT features DVS.

December 1990

A journal article titled "The Development of the Descriptive Video Service" by Barry Cronin and Sharon King is published in the Journal of Visual Impairment and Blindness (Vol. 84, No. 10, page 503).

December 1990

Article in AARP's Modern Maturity results in 4,000 requests for DVS information.

June 1991

Retinitis International Special Recognition Award is given to WGBH for "providing an innovative service to visually impaired persons."

July 1991

DVS conducts first workshop on description of historical documentaries at the National Federation of the Blind's convention in New Orleans, Louisiana.

September 1991

The Canadian National Institute for the Blind presents the Winston Gordon Award to WGBH's

Descriptive Video Service for "technological advancements in the field of blindness and visual impairment."

October 1991

Funding from the U.S. Department of Education enables DVS to add description to THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE, AMERICAN PLAYHOUSE, MASTERPIECE THEATRE, NATURE, and WILD AMERICA.

October 1991

Funding from the U.S. Department of Education enables DVS to create DVS Home Video with agreements from Buena Vista Home Video and Paramount Home Video. The first catalogue of ten titles is mailed to 33,500 people.

December 1991

DVS Bulletin changed to DVS Guide, and is mailed to 8,500 people and organizations.

January 1992

DVS receives grant from National Science Foundation, Informal Science Education, to study the writing styles appropriate for describing science and nature television programs and to assess the audience's needs and preferences.

April 1992

DVS reaches 50% of U.S. television households as number of PBS stations offering DVS increases to 62.

June 1992

DVS staff demonstrates DVS service at the American Library Association's annual meeting in San Francisco, California.

September 1992

DVS Home Video is featured on CNN.

September 1992

DVS contracts with MCA/Universal Home Video and MPI Home Video to describe and make selected movie titles available on video.

October 1992

The Reynolds Society Achievement Award is given to Barry J. Cronin by the Reynolds Society of the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary for his "contribution to improving the lives of hearing and visually impaired people."

October 1992

Funding from the U.S. Department of Education enables DVS to describe historical documentaries on video and launch marketing campaign to libraries.

October 1992

Funding from the U.S. Department of Education enables DVS to describe PBS programs and videos for families of blind and visually impaired children and launch children's outreach campaign.

November 1992

DVS describes first Omnimax film, "Mountain Gorilla," for the Boston Museum of Science.

November 1992

Monroe County Library in Bloomington, Indiana is first public library in the U.S. to offer DVS home videos to library patrons.

January 1993

DVS provides first live description of a broadcast event on "The Clinton Inaugural: A PBS Special." Funding provided by the U.S. Department of Education and National Federation of the Blind.

January 1993

DVS begins describing NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SPECIALS.

February 1993

DVS conducts focus groups of blind children in Boston to determine effectiveness of description on children's programming.

February 1993

First meeting of DVS National Consumer Advisory Council takes place by telephone.

February 1993

DVS contracts with Highbridge Video to describe and make selected movie titles available on home video.

March 1993

The American Foundation for the Blind presents the Equality of Access and Opportunity Award to DVS for "significant contribution ensuring quality of access and opportunity for people who are blind or visually impaired."

March 1993

DVS introduces description to THE NEW EXPLORERS series.

March 1993

To refine description for children, outreach staff conducts focus groups of blind children at Frances Blend School For the Blind in Los Angeles and at Farnsworth, Stevenson, and Sawyer elementary schools in Chicago.

April 1993

DVS launches the DVS 800 Information Line (1-800-333-1203).

April 1993

The Pinnacle Award is given to DVS by America's Disability Channel for "the year's best television presentation for people with disabilities."

April 1993

DVS contracts with Pacific Arts and Public Media Video to describe and make selected educational and entertainment titles available on video.

June 1993

DVS hosts workshop with educators of blind children to explore ways in which DVS might benefit children at home and in the classroom.

June 1993

DVS contracts with Shanachie Home Video to describe and make selected educational titles available on video.

July 1993

DVS receives a grant from National Science Foundation to describe science programming and assess the impact and value of description.

August 1993

DVS adds description to LONG AGO & FAR AWAY series.

August 1993

DVS contracts with Time Life Video to describe and make selected educational titles available on home video.

September 1993

Boston's Videosmith becomes the first video store to offer DVS Home Video titles for rental.

October 1993

Sales of DVS home videos reach 10,000.

November 1993

DVS hosts meeting of PBS producers of children's programs to discuss most effective ways to reach children of different ages and to maintain tone of program set by producer.

December 1993

DVS adds description to "Sesame Street Stays Up Late! A Monster New Year's Party."

January 1994

The Apollo Award is presented to DVS by the American Optometric Association for "outstanding contributions to the visual welfare of the American People."

February 1994

DVS describes five episodes of MISTER ROGERS' NEIGHBORHOOD.

April 1994

DVS contracts with WGBH's Office of Commercial Marketing to describe and make selected educational titles available on home video.

June 1994

Stop & Shop initiates rental service of DVS home videos in 57 video centers throughout New England.

July 1994

DVS is demonstrated at Video Software Dealers Association (VSDA) national convention in Las Vegas, Nevada, at booth donated by VSDA.

August 1994

WKOP in Knoxville, Tennessee becomes the 100th public television station to offer DVS, increasing percentage of viewers able to receive DVS to 67% of U.S. television households.

September 1994

DVS completes National Endowment for the Arts Challenge Grant with a grant from Panasonic Company meeting \$1.35 million goal.

September 1994

DVS describes "Mister Rogers' Heroes" for PBS broadcast.

September 1994

DVS describes Ken Burns' "Baseball" for PBS broadcast. Funding is provided by the U.S. Department of Education and General Motors. GM's underwriting marks the first time that a series underwriter has sponsored DVS description of the same series.

October 1994

DVS receives renewed funding from the U.S. Department of Education for description of broadcast programs on PBS and home videos.

October 1994

WALT DISNEY'S SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS is first DVS Home Video title to be made available to blind and visually impaired people on the same day as video is available to the general public.

October 1994

DVS contracts with Fox Video to describe and make selected movie titles available on home video.

November 1994

DVS is commissioned by MCA/Universal and Amblin Entertainment to describe SCHINDLER'S LIST for home video.

December 1994

DVS's mailing list for the DVS Guide reaches 20,000 names.

December 1994

Sales of DVS home videos reach 30,000, including purchases by 450 libraries in all 50 states.

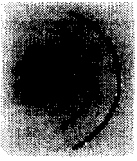
January 1995

DVS contracts with LIVE Home Video to describe and make selected movie titles available on video.

February 1995

DVS describes "Mystery of the Senses: A NOVA Miniseries with Diane Ackerman." Funding is provided by the National Science Foundation and United Technologies.

Media Access / DVS / WGBH Educational Foundation / www.wgbh.org



<http://www.wgbh.org/page/dvs/dvsequipment.html>

Equipment Needed to Receive DVS

To receive DVS in your home, you need either a stereo TV or VCR that includes the Second Audio Program (S.A.P.) feature, or you need a S.A.P. TV adapter (sometimes called a decoder) that enables your existing TV set to receive S.A.P. and DVS. When purchasing a stereo TV or VCR, be sure to tell the salesperson that you need to access S.A.P. easily. And, if you're buying a VCR, specify that you want a model that receives and records S.A.P.

Recoton Corporation has a limited number of S.A.P. decoders available for purchase. The F.R.E.D. III S.A.P. Decoder will enable any television to receive stereo and S.A.P. This decoder includes a built-in amplifier, but no speakers. If you have a monaural TV set, you will need to obtain speakers in addition to the F.R.E.D. III. The price is \$49.95 including shipping and handling. To get this special price, be sure to say that it is for a blind person. To order the F.R.E.D. III (item #V624), you may call in your order and charge to a credit card or send a check or money order. To charge to a credit card, call 1-800-231-0031. (The phone will be answered, "Haven Industries.") Send checks or money orders to: Recoton Corp., 4623 Crane Street, Long Island City, NY 11101.

If you have technical questions about the F.R.E.D. III or need customer service, call 1-800-732-6866.

Lighthouse Consumer Products also offers the Recoton F.R.E.D. III (#Y3021) through its catalogue. For more information, contact them at 1-800-829-0500.

Compol, Inc. of Mason, New Hampshire, is now manufacturing a S.A.P. receiver. This receiver is pre-tuned by the manufacturer to the frequency of the public television station in your area that broadcasts programs with DVS. This stand-alone unit does not need to be used in conjunction with a television set. The unit receives the main audio and S.A.P. audio broadcast from the television station. The base price for VHF models is \$99, and \$125 for UHF models. You should allow approximately eight weeks for delivery of the Compol S.A.P. receiver from the time that you place an order. For more information or to place an order, call 1-800-722-0755.

TV and VCRs: Panasonic has announced that all 1995 models of stereo VCRs and stereo combination units will include a tactile button on the remote control to access SAP. Select models from the following companies also include a button on the remote control to access SAP, Goldstar, JVC, Sony and Toshiba.

Media Access Technologies / DVS / WGBH Educational Foundation / www.wgbh.org



[http://www.ughh.org/Pages/DVS/DVS Stations.html](http://www.ughh.org/Pages/DVS/DVS%20Stations.html)

Stations Carrying DVS as of February 1995

KAET-8.....Arizona/Phoenix
KUAS-27.....Arizona/Tucson
KUAT-6.....Arizona/Tucson
KTEJ-19.....Arkansas/Jonesboro
KETS-2.....Arkansas/Little Rock
KCET-28.....California/Los Angeles
KVIE-6.....California/Sacramento
KPBS-15.....California/San Diego
KQED-9.....California/San Francisco
KRMA-6.....Colorado/Denver
WETA-26.....D.C./Washington
WSRE-23.....Florida/Pensacola
WEDU-3.....Florida/Tampa
WUSF-16.....Florida/Tampa
WPBA-30.....Georgia/Atlanta
KCDT-26.....Idaho/Coeur d'Alene
KUID-12.....Idaho/Moscow
WTTW-11.....Illinois/Chicago
WTIU-30.....Indiana/Bloomington
WNIN-9.....Indiana/Evansville
WFWA-39.....Indiana/Ft. Wayne
WYIN-56.....Indiana/Merrillville
WNIT-34.....Indiana/South Bend/Elkhart
KDIN-11.....Iowa/Des Moines
KIIN-12.....Iowa/Iowa City
WMEB-12.....Maine/Bangor
WMED-13.....Maine/Calais
WCBB-10.....Maine/Lewiston
WMEM-10.....Maine/Presque Isle
WMPT-22.....Maryland/Annapolis
WMPB-67.....Maryland/Baltimore
WFPT-62.....Maryland/Frederick
WWPB-31.....Maryland/Hagerstown
WCPT-36.....Maryland/Oakland
WCPB-28.....Maryland/Salisbury
WGBH-2.....Massachusetts/Boston
WGBY-57.....Massachusetts/Springfield
WUCX-35.....Michigan/Bad Axe/Ubly

WTVS-56.....Michigan/Detroit
 WFUM-28.....Michigan/Flint
 WGVU-35.....Michigan/Grand Rapids
 WGVK-52.....Michigan/Kalamazoo
 WUCM-19.....Michigan/Univ. Center
 KTCA-2.....Minnesota/St. Paul
 KCPT-19.....Missouri/Kansas City
 KOZK-21.....Missouri/Springfield
 KETC-9.....Missouri/St. Louis
 KTNE-13.....Nebraska/Alliance
 KMNE-7.....Nebraska/Bassett
 KHNE-29.....Nebraska/Hastings
 KLNE-3.....Nebraska/Lexington
 KUON-12.....Nebraska/Lincoln
 KRNE-12.....Nebraska/Merriman
 KXNE-19.....Nebraska/Norfolk
 KPNE-9.....Nebraska/North Platte
 KYNE-26.....Nebraska/Omaha
 KLVX-10.....Nevada/Las Vegas
 KNPB-5.....Nevada/Reno
 WENH-11.....New Hampshire/Durham
 WLED-49.....New Hampshire/Littleton
 WEKW-52.....New Hampshire/Keene
 WSKG-46.....New York/Binghamton
 WNET-13.....New York/New York
 WCFE-57.....New York/Plattsburgh
 WMHT-17.....New York/Schenectady
 WCNY-24.....New York/Syracuse
 WUNC-4.....North Carolina/Chapel Hill
 WTVI-42.....North Carolina/Charlotte
 WUNG-58.....North Carolina/Concord
 WUNJ-39.....North Carolina/Wilimington
 WEAO-49.....Ohio/Akron
 WNEO-45.....Ohio/Alliance
 WOUB-20.....Ohio/Athens
 WBGU-27.....Ohio/Bowling Green
 WOUC-44.....Ohio/Cambridge
 WCET-48.....Ohio/Cincinnati
 WVIZ-25.....Ohio/Cleveland
 WOSU-34.....Ohio/Columbus
 WPBO-42.....Ohio/Portsmouth
 WGTE-30.....Ohio/Toledo
 KOAB-3.....Oregon/Bend
Pennsylvania/Allentown/
 WLVT-39...../Bethlehem/Easton
 WITF-33.....Pennsylvania/Harrisburg
 WHYY-12.....Pennsylvania/Philadelphia
 WVIA-44.....Pennsylvania/Scranton

WKOP-15.....Tennessee/Knoxville
 WLJT-11.....Tennessee/Martin
 WKNO-10.....Tennessee/Memphis
 WDCN-8.....Tennessee/Nashville
 WSJK-2.....Tennessee/Sneedville
 KLRU-18.....Texas/Austin
 KERA-13.....Texas/Dallas
 KUHT-8.....Texas/Houston
 KTXT-5.....Texas/Lubbock
 KLRN-9.....Texas/San Antonio
 KUED-7.....Utah/Salt Lake City
 WHTJ-41.....Virginia/Charlottesville
 WVPT-51.....Virginia/Harrisonburg
 WHRO-15.....Virginia/Norfolk
 WCVE-23.....Virginia/Richmond
 WBRA-15.....Virginia/Roanoke
 KCTS-9.....Washington/Seattle
 KSPS-9.....Washington/Spokane
 WSWP-9.....West Virginia/Beckley
 WNPB-24.....West Virginia/Morgantown
 WMVS-10.....Wisconsin/Milwaukee

Radio Reading Services in the following areas carry some DVS programs:

.....
 WLRH Radio Reading Service....."Huntsville, AL"
 WHIL Radio Reading Service....."Mobile, AL"
 WTSU Radio Reading Service....."Montgomery, AL"
 WUAL Radio Reading Service....."Tuscaloosa, AL"
 Audio Vision/In-Touch....."Sacramento, CA"
 Radio Reading Service....."San Diego, CA"
 Radio Reading Service....."Miami, FL"
 WUSF Radio Reading Service....."Tampa, FL"
 WUSI Radio Reading Service....."Olney, IL"
 Illinois Radio Reader....."Urbana, IL"
 Radio Reading Service.....Evansville IN
 TIC Radio....."Boston, MA"
 Detroit Radio Information Service....."Detroit, MI"
 Mississippi Radio Reading Service "Jackson, MS"
 Radio Talking Book Network....."Omaha, NE"
 RISE Service....."Schenectady, NY "
 Read-Out....."Syracuse, NY"
 Reachout Radio....."Rochester, NY"
 Radio Rdng. Serv. of Grtr. Cincinnati....."Cincinnati, OH"
 Radio Reading Service....."Cleveland, Columbus"
 Sight Center Radio Service....."Toledo, OH"
 Golden Hours....."Corvallis, LaGrande, Portland OR"
 Tri-County Radio Reading Service....."Harrisburg, PA"
 Lancaster County R.R.S....."Lancaster County, PA"
 Golden Triangle Radio Information Svc....."Pittsburgh, PA"

York County Radio Reading Service....."York County, PA"
Insight Radio....."Warwick, RI"
Houston Taping For The Blind....."Houston, TX"
Hampton Roads Voice....."Norfolk, VA"
Evergreen Radio Reading Service....."Seattle, WA "
E.A.R.S."Kenosha, WI"

Media Access / DVS / WGBH Educational Foundation / www.wgbh.org



<http://www.wgbh.org/Pages/DVS/DVScndKids.html>

Descriptive Video Service and Children

Descriptive Video Service was developed by WGBH, the public broadcaster in Boston, and launched over the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) in 1990 to make television broadcasts and movies on video accessible to people who are blind and visually impaired. DVS inserts carefully crafted, concise narrated descriptions of key visual elements (actions, settings, facial expressions, graphics) into natural pauses in a program or movie's dialogue. Currently, DVS narration can be heard on a number of PBS broadcasts (including drama, nature, science, select episodes of popular children's programs, and documentaries) as well as on a number of movies and documentaries on video. A wide variety of entertainment and educational videos and programs are available to blind and visually impaired children, including Disney classics and Hollywood hits such as "Beauty and the Beast" and "Field of Dreams," PBS children's programs and specials including select episodes of "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood," and "Sesame Street Stays Up Late: a Monster New Year's Eve Special," and documentaries like "The Kennedys," and "Eyes on the Prize."


Since the inception of DVS, the Descriptive Video Service staff has worked with focus groups and advisory councils of blind and low vision adults to discuss description issues and ensure that the description meets the needs of its audience. Beginning in 1992, with a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, DVS began expanding its focus groups and advisors to include blind children, parents, educators and producers of children's television programming, with the goal of making description of children's programs and movies as beneficial as possible for blind children. DVS wanted to research what it had heard from parents of blind children and teachers: that the DVS description in television programs and movies not only provides blind children with access to the information and entertainment available to sighted children, but also helps them to learn concepts (e.g. size and orientation to objects) as well as social skills, such as the important and appropriate use of body language.

The DVS staff has conducted numerous focus groups of children ages 4-18 in various locations nationwide, obtained feedback from parents, and established a task force of educators to determine how DVS can help meet the educational and cultural/social needs of children. As a result of this research, DVS description of children's programs is being specially written and narrated; e.g. description is written with appropriate vocabulary; sizes are described in relation to something blind children have touched or experienced; important description details are repeated more often than in programs and videos for adults; fashion and hairstyles are described when appropriate in programs for adolescents; narration style in children's movies is often more animated than in movies for adults.

In the classroom, availability of described versions of educational programs and films can enable a mainstream or vision educator to include the blind or low vision child in the viewing and discussion of a movie such as "Henry V" or NOVA's "Miracle of Life." Described programs can become tools for teaching important concepts. With access to described programs and movies at home, the blind child can join his or her family and friends in watching, enjoying, and discussing television

programs or movies that are a part of our popular culture. With DVS, children gain greater independence and access to information, and gain increased self-confidence from being included. One parent of a blind child says, "DVS helps level the playing field on which (my son) will live, work and compete, and will help determine the extent to which he may participate in society as a productive, contributing member."

Media Access Technologies / DVS / WGBH Educational Foundation / www.wgbh.org



<http://www.wgbh.org/Pages/CaptionCenter/CCMore.html>

More and Better Captioning: You Can Make it Happen!

No one could have predicted ten years ago how much captioning would grow. Today, viewers have more options than ever before. The Television Decoder Act is now in effect, requiring all televisions with screens 13 inches or larger manufactured for sale in the United States to have built-in decoder circuitry. Captions now have the potential to reach millions of deaf and hard-of-hearing viewers as well as the hearing audience, people who are learning to read, and people learning English as a second language.

The educational benefits of television will be enhanced as families begin to "read" television together. Captions will also be beneficial in public places such as airports or bars, where television audio is difficult to hear.

Currently, almost everything in prime time (nightly between 8:00 and 11:00p.m.) on the commercial networks and PBS is captioned, but many daytime, cable, and syndicated programs remain uncaptioned. The Caption Center at WGBH encourages viewers to become involved. Your opinions count more than you may realize.

If you want to work for the future of captioning, we suggest you get involved in these ways:

- 1 Ask for more captioned TV programs.
- 2 Spread the word about captioning.
- 3 Show your appreciation.

Ask for More Captioned TV

Write to networks, producers, cable companies, and captioning agencies (see addresses at the end of this document). Thank them for the programs that *are* captioned and tell them which new programs you would like to see captioned.

Remember to send copies of your letters to the national networks in addition to your local TV station or cable company. Send copies of your letters to The Caption Center as well.

Ask video stores to print a list of captioned tapes they rent and sell. Ask them to encourage videotape distributors to label each box as closed captioned (or CC). Suggest that the stores get a decoder or a caption-capable TV set, show captioned tapes, and provide information about captioning. We will be happy to send you brochures about captioning and a list of places that sell decoders.

Write to videotape distributors and producers. Ask for more captioned tapes, and explain the

importance of labeling the tape as captioned.

Spread the Word

If you own a caption decoder or a television with built-in decoder circuitry, invite friends and family to watch your favorite programs with you. Tell them how captioning has made a difference for you. You could open up a new world for someone.

If a store sells decoders and decoder-equipped television sets, ask them to demonstrate captioning in the store. Many people know someone who could benefit from captioning, but they don't know it until they've seen it.

Encourage public places to get a decoder or a decoder-equipped television and use it. Inform people that television sets with this new technology are in stores now, and explain that these sets, as well as decoders, provide equal access and can provide a community service. It's an ideal way to make the public aware of captioning.

Stay informed about local and national legislation that affects captioning and access to television. Let your elected representatives know your opinions and ask them to keep you informed. Give out sample letters with legislators' addresses so other people can send letters too.

Many local agencies, clubs, self-help groups and service providers to deaf and hard-of-hearing people have up-to-date information about decoders, related legislation and advocacy efforts. Ask them to keep you informed. Volunteer to help.

Show Your Appreciation

If you enjoy a specific captioned program, let the people who pay for the captioning know. Write and tell the funders that you appreciate their support and want to see it continue. If you want addresses or information, we will be glad to help. Or if you send a letter to The Caption Center, we will be sure to deliver it to the right place.

If you buy products because you learned about them through a captioned commercial, by all means let the advertisers know! You have purchasing power and companies like to know that their commercials are effective. Let captioning agencies know how you feel about their captioning services. If you share your ideas and comments, criticisms and compliments, it will help them to serve you better. The Caption Center has a Captionwatcher form for viewers' feedback. Let us know if you would like one.

Television Networks

ABC
30 West 67th Street
New York, NY 10023
(212) 887-2425

Fox Broadcasting Company
10201 West Pico Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90035
(213) 203-3266

NBC
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, NY 10112
(212) 664-4444

CBS
51 West 52nd Street
New York, NY 10019
(212) 975-4321

PBS
1320 Braddock Place
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 739-5000

National Organizations
Serving Deaf and
Hard-of-Hearing People

Alexander Graham Bell
Association for the Deaf
3417 Volta Place, NW
Washington, DC 20007
(202) 337-5220 voice/TTY

Association of
Late-Deafened Adults
P.O. Box 641763
Chicago, IL 60664-1763
(815) 459-5741 TTY

National Association of the Deaf
814 Thayer Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910
(301) 587-1788 voice/TTY

National Fraternal Society
of the Deaf
1300 W. Northwest Highway
Mt. Prospect, IL 60056
(708) 392-9282 voice/TTY

Self Help for Hard of Hearing
People
7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 1200
Bethesda, MD 20814
(301) 657-2248 voice
(301) 657-2249 TTY

Captioning Agencies

The Caption Center at WGBH
Consumer Affairs Department
125 Western Avenue
Boston, MA 02134

(617) 492-9225 voice/TTY

The Caption Center
610 N. Hollywood Way, Suite 350
Burbank, CA 91505

The Caption Center
475 Park Avenue South
10th Floor

New York, NY 10016

(212) 545-0854 voice

(212) 545-8546 TTY

Real-time Captions, Inc.

7101 Sepulveda Blvd.

Room 301

Van Nuys, CA 91405

(818) 376-0406 voice

National Captioning Institute

1900 Gallows Road

Vienna, VA 22182

Vitac/CaptionAmerica

312 Boulevard of the Allies

Suite 200

Pittsburgh, PA 15222

(412) 261-1458 voice/TTY

Captions, Inc.

2619 Hyperion, Suite A

Los Angeles, CA 90027

(213) 665-4860 voice/TTY

Home Video Distributors

Buena Vista Home Video

500 S. Buena Vista Street

Burbank, CA 91521

(800) 723-4763

CBS/Fox Video

1211 Avenue of the Americas

New York, NY 10036

(212) 819-3200

Columbia TriStar Home Video

3400 Riverside Drive

Burbank, CA 91505-4627

(818) 972-8686

MCA/Universal Home Video
70 Universal City Plaza
Universal City, CA 91608
(818) 777-4300

MGM/UA Home Video, Inc.
10000 Washington Boulevard
Culver City, CA 90232-2728
(310) 280-6000

Paramount Home Video
Paramount Communications, Inc.
5555 Melrose Avenue
Hollywood, CA 90038-3197
(213) 956-5000

Touchstone Home Video
500 S. Buena Vista Street
Burbank, CA 91521
(800) 723-4763

Warner Home Video, Inc.
4000 Warner Boulevard
Burbank, CA 91522
(818) 954-6000

Cable Networks

A&E Network
235 E. 45th Street
New York, NY 10017
(212) 661-4500

American Movie Classics
150 Crossways Park West
Woodbury, NY 11797
(516) 364-2222

Black Entertainment Television (BET)
1232 31st Street, NW
Washington, DC 20007
(202) 337-5260

Bravo
150 Crossways Park West
Woodbury, NY 11797
(516) 364-2222

CNBC, Consumer News
and Business Channel

2200 Fletcher Avenue
Fort Lee, NJ 07024
(201) 585-CNBC

CNN
One CNN Center
Box 105366
Atlanta, GA 30348-5366
(404) 827-1500

The Cartoon Network
Box 105264
1050 Techwood Drive, NW
Atlanta, GA 30318
(404) 827-1717

Country Music Television (CMT)
2806 Opryland Drive
Nashville, TN 37213
(615) 871-5830

Comedy Central
1775 Broadway
New York, NY 10019
(212) 767-8600

Courtroom Television Network
600 Third Avenue, 2nd Floor
New York, NY 10016
(212) 973-2800

The Discovery Channel
7700 Wisconsin Avenue
Bethesda, MD 20814
(301) 986-0444

The Disney Channel
3800 W. Alameda Avenue
Burbank, CA 91505
(818) 569-7500

E! Entertainment Television
5670 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90036-3709
(213) 954-2400

ESPN
935 Middle Street, ESPN Plaza
Bristol, CT 06010
(203) 585-2000

Family Channel

1000 Centerville Turnpike
Virginia Beach, VA 23463
(804) 523-7301

fX
10201 W. Pico Blvd., Suite 761
Los Angeles, CA 90035
(310) 203-3874

Headline News
One CNN Center, Box 105366
Atlanta, GA 30348
(404) 827-1500

Home Box Office
(HBO)/Cinemax
1100 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10036
(212) 512-1000

The Learning Channel
7700 Wisconsin Avenue
Bethesda, MD 20814
(301) 986-0444

Lifetime Television
309 W. 49th Street
New York, NY 10036
(212) 424-7000

MTV
1515 Broadway
New York, NY 10036
(212) 258-8000

Mind Extension University
Jones International Ltd.
9697 E. Mineral Avenue
Englewood, CO 80155-3309
(303) 792-3111

The Nashville Network
2806 Opryland Drive
Nashville, TN 37214
(625) 889-6840

Nickelodeon
1515 Broadway
New York, NY 10036
(212) 258-8000

Nostalgia Television

3575 Cahuenga Blvd. West, Suite 495
Los Angeles, CA 90068
(213) 850-3000

Sci-Fi Channel
1230 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10020
(212) 408-9100

Showtime/TMC
1633 Broadway, 37th Floor
New York, NY 10019
(212) 708-1600

TNN: The Nashville Network
(Group W Satellite Communications)
Box 10210, 250 Harbor Plaza Drive
Stamford, CT 06904-2210
(203) 965-6000

Television Food Network
1177 Avenue of the Americas, 31st Fl.
New York, NY 10036
(212) 398-8836

The Travel Channel
2690 Cumberland Parkway, Suite 500
Atlanta, GA 30339
(404) 801-2400

Turner Entertainment Networks
1050 Techwood Drive, NW
Atlanta, GA 30348-5264
(404) 827-1717

USA Networks
1230 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10020
(212) 408-9100

VH-1
1515 Broadway
New York, NY 10036
(212) 258-8000

The Weather Channel
2600 Cumberland Parkway
Atlanta, GA 30339
(404) 434-6800



The Americans with Disabilities Act

The Television Decoder Circuitry Act

1990 saw the passage of two powerful pieces of legislation: The Americans with Disabilities Act and the Television Decoder Circuitry Act. As the nation's first and most experienced captioning agency, The Caption Center at WGBH applauds the passage and enactment of these landmark laws and the positive impact they have in the lives of people with disabilities. The Caption Center offers this brief summary to explain how both laws affect you as a caption consumer.

The Americans with Disabilities Act

The ADA is an unprecedented civil rights law which protects disabled people from discrimination in employment, transportation, and public accommodation. Specifically, the ADA requires that businesses and public accommodations take steps to insure that disabled individuals are not excluded from or denied services due to the absence of auxiliary aids. Captions are considered one type of auxiliary aid to make information accessible to deaf and hard-of-hearing persons.

Title III (Public Accommodations & Services) and Title IV (Telecommunications) of the ADA cover the use of captioning:

At Home

While the ADA does not require all television programming to be captioned, all public service announcements produced or funded by the federal government for television must be closed captioned.

Public Accommodations

Public accommodations, including (but not limited to) hotels, hospitals, bars, convention centers, shopping centers, libraries, museums, day care centers, health spas, and bowling alleys must provide access to the audio portion of programs. Specifically:

- **Hotels and Hospitals**

Closed captioning must be made available upon request in hotels that provide televisions in five or more guest rooms. Hospitals that provide televisions for patient use must also provide access to closed captions upon request.

- **Movie Theaters**

While movie theaters are not required to present open-captioned films, other public accommodations which impart verbal information through soundtracks on films, videotapes or slide shows must provide access to this information. Captioning is considered one way of making such information available to deaf and hard-of-hearing persons.